



**HOUMA BEARING SERVICE, INC.**

1881 Grand Caillou Rd.  
Houma, LA 70363

1935 '99 APR 19 AIO:29

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
FDA  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Room 1601  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear FDA:

I am writing today to express my strong objection to costly and unnecessary rules which you have been asked to consider by the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

As one who has worked in the oyster industry for many years and who understands the difficulties faced by farmers, processors and others who rely on shellfish, I can tell you first-hand of the economic damage these proposed rules will inflict upon us.

Most people in our industry own small operations with little financial stability and few cash reserves. Forcing us to comply with mandatory treatment will drive many out of the business altogether and greatly reduce our limited profits even further. Simply stated, we can't afford the costly equipment and cannot absorb the lower consumer demand which will result from treated oysters.

Consumers should have a choice between treated oysters and fresh oysters. The small number of people who may be at risk should heed the ample health warnings available where fresh oysters are sold and assume their own level of personal responsibility

I urge FDA to reject these crippling rules and to allow other appropriate independent state and national bodies such as ISSC to continue to their educational and oversight activities as they have in the past.

Thank you,

*Bob Pelletier* Pres. H.B.S.

98P-0504

4/12/99

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***A Special Message to the FDA:***


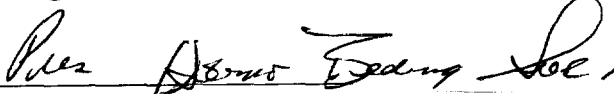
America's consumers deserve choice in quality shellfish products at competitive prices.

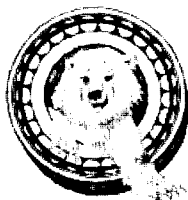
Changes to oyster and shellfish processing rules currently being reviewed by FDA unnecessarily eliminate consumer choice for unprocessed raw oysters and ensure higher consumer prices at restaurants, stores and markets. 117:29

I / we support current consumer education and awareness efforts and strongly oppose these unnecessary, restrictive and costly rules.

Please reject this assault on consumer choice and America's shellfish industry. Reject the CSPI petition and avoid these unnecessary and costly regulations.

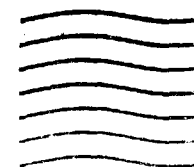
Sincerely,



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